

Message Text

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DEPT PASS OAU COLLECTIVE

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: AORG, OAU
SUBJ: OAU SECRETARY GENERAL'S NEW YEARS MESSAGE

SUMMARY: ORGANIZATION OF AFRICAN UNITY SECGEN
WILLIAM ETEKI MBOUMOUA IN OAU TRADITIONAL NEW YEAR'S MES-
SAGE CALLED ON AFRICANS TO MAKE 1978 A YEAR OF SELF-
CONFIDENCE. HE TOOK NOTE OF THE LIBERATION STRUGGLES IN
SOUTHERN AFRICA, ECONOMIC PROBLEMS FACING THE CONTINENT,
AND SHAMELESS INTERVENTION BY THOSE WHO ARE STILL DREAM-
ING OF DESTABLIZING AFRICA. HE POINTEDLY REITERATED
CHERISHED OAU PRINCIPLES OF SOVERIGNTY, TERRITORIAL INTE-
GRITY, INDEPENDENCE, AND NON-INTERFERENCE IN INTERNAL
AFFAIRS OF STATES. ETEKI SAID THE SUPREME MISSION OF THE
OAU WAS TO REMIND MEMBERS "UNOBLIGINGLY" TO ADHERE TO PRIN-
CIPLES AND PURPOSES OF CHARTER AND EXERT ITSELF AS FORCE
AGAINST DISUNION. ETEKI'S MESSAGE GENERALIZED ENOUGH
TO APPLY TO NUMBER OF MEMBER STATES WITHOUT SPECIFI-
CALLY CRITICIZING THEM BY NAME. ALSO, REFERENCE TO
EXTERNAL INTERVENTION DID NOT SPECIFY ANY PARTICULAR
COUNTRIES AND COULD BE READ TO MEAN ALMOST ANY NON-
AFRICAN STATE. IN SUM, MESSAGE ATTEMPTED TO RAISE
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AFRICAN ISSUES WITHOUT ANTAGONIZING ANYONE WHICH DIF-
FICULT PROPOSITION CONSIDERING CURRENT AFRICAN DISPUTES.
END SUMMARY.

1. OAU SECGEN ETEKI CHARACTERIZED PAST YEAR
AS ONE IN WHICH DELAYED-ACTION EXPLOSIVE SHAMELESSLY
LEFT BEHIND BY COLONIZER TO BURST. HE FURTHER STATED

IT WAS YEAR OF SHAMELESS INTERVENTIONS (SIC) WITH VIEW TO EXPLOITING DISSENSION BETWEEN AFRICAN STATES. ETEKI WENT ON TO CITE DEHUMANIZING PROBLEMS IN SOUTHERN AFRICA. ECONOMICALLY, ETEKI DESCRIBED PAST YEAR AS ONE OF PERSISTENT INFLATION, MONETARY INSTABILITY, EXHORBITANT BURDEN OF DEBTS, DOWNWARD FLUCTUATION OF BASIC COMMODITIES' PRICES, LACK OF PROGRESS IN PARIS NORTH-SOUTH DIALOGUE AND IN GENEVA GENERAL SYSTEM OF PRICE STABILIZATION TALKS AND AS ONE OF NATURAL CALAMITIES AFFLICTING CONTINENT SUCH AS DROUGHT.

2. PERHAPS WITH CURRENT DISPUTES IN MIND, ETEKI REITERATED THOSE ELEMENTS FROM OAU CHARTER PREAMBLE WHICH ORIGINALLY WRITTEN TO SAFEGUARD AND CONSOLIDATE AFRICAN STATES' INDEPENDENCE, SOVEREIGNTY, AND INTEGRITY. HE EMPHASIZED TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY, NON-INTERFERENCE IN INTERNAL AFFAIRS, AND RESPECT FOR SOVERIGNTY OF EACH STATE. HE STATED OAU BELIEVED IN PEACEFUL SETTLEMENT OF DISPUTES BY NEGOTIATION, MEDIATION, CONCILIATION AND ARBITRATION. HE SAID THE OAU IS EXPECTED TO PROVIDE MORAL AND INSPIRED AUTHORITY TO SETTLE DISPUTES PROLIFERATING BETWEEN COUNTRIES. HOWEVER, WHEN THESE COUNTRIES ARE DIVIDED, PULLED ABOUT, OR MANIPULATED, THEY CREATE CONDITIONS WHICH NOT LONG AGO FAVORED COLONIALISM AND DOMINATION. THEREFORE, IT INCUMBENT UPON OAU TO STRENGTHEN ITS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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MORAL AUTHORITY AND THUS WARRANT RESPECT AND CREDIBILITY, ESPECIALLY ON SOUTHERN AFRICAN ISSUES.

3. ETEKI CONCLUDED BY CALLING ON OAU MEMBER STATES TO MAKE 1978 THE YEAR OF SELF-CONFIDENCE -- CONFIDENCE IN STRUGGLE FOR TOTAL LIBERATION OF AFRICA, IN EFFORTS TO HARMONIZE DEVELOPMENT POLICIES, IN GREATER SOLIDARITY AMONG STATES, AND FINALLY CONFIDENCE IN THE FAITH OF AFRICA TO LIBERATE HERSELF AND REINSTATE HER DIGNITY.
MATHERON

NOTE BY OC/T: NOT PASSED OAU COLLECTIVE.

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